



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Substitute Bill No. 1056



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO FOSTER THE MICROBIOME SECTOR IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
2 group to study and develop legislative and programmatic initiatives
3 and a roadmap to foster the microbiome sector in the state and
4 establish the state as a leader in the development of new microbiome-
5 based diagnostics and treatments. The working group shall seek to
6 cultivate (1) an industry cluster of companies focused on medical
7 applications of microbiome-based products and services, and (2)
8 working relationships to determine programs, networks and
9 opportunities that are the most attractive and necessary to such
10 companies to nurture their growth in the state.

11 (b) The working group shall consist of (1) the Commissioners of
12 Economic and Community Development, Public Health and Revenue
13 Services, or their designees, (2) the chairperson of the CTNext board of
14 directors or the chairperson's designee, (3) the president of The
15 University of Connecticut or the president's designee, (4) the dean of
16 The University of Connecticut School of Medicine or the dean's
17 designee, (5) the president of the Board of Regents for Higher
18 Education or the president's designee, and (6) the following, to be
19 appointed by the Governor: (A) One representative of an independent
20 institution of higher education in the state; (B) one representative of an

21 independent medical school in the state; (C) one representative from
22 Yale University or Yale University School of Medicine; (D) two
23 representatives of bioscience companies located in the state and in
24 business for five years or more; (E) two representatives of bioscience
25 companies located in the state and in business for less than five years;
26 (F) one representative of a venture capital firm located in the state; and
27 (G) one individual who represents hospitals in the state. The working
28 group may consult with industry stakeholders and representatives of
29 microbiome companies, representatives of educational and research
30 institutions that are focused on the microbiome sector, representatives
31 of the medical field who have expertise in the medical applications of
32 microbiome-based products and services and any other individuals or
33 representatives of fields the working group deems necessary or
34 appropriate to inform it on the microbiome sector.

35 (c) The working group shall investigate, analyze and develop
36 initiatives that include, but need not be limited to, the following:

37 (1) Designating a state agency or quasi-public agency to establish
38 and lead a program to attract and retain companies that are
39 developing microbiome-based products and services. Such agency
40 shall coordinate efforts across all economic development agencies and
41 sectors in the state;

42 (2) Identifying new and existing funds to provide financing to start-
43 up microbiome companies and a research and development fund for
44 early stage research projects that are likely to lead to new and
45 improved microbiome-based products and services, develop strategies
46 to publicize the availability of such funds and establish an efficient
47 process for applying for such funds;

48 (3) Reviewing state tax policy to develop a tax incentive program to
49 lower the tax liability of established microbiome companies that
50 relocate to or establish new lines of business in the state and to
51 enhance the state's competitiveness within the northeastern states;

52 (4) Developing support services and networks for microbiome
53 companies, including, but not limited to, access to (A) sequencing,
54 analytics and other scientific services, and (B) management, legal,
55 accounting and other professional services;

56 (5) Investing in high-quality, affordable laboratory and production
57 space located near key partners and collaborators;

58 (6) Building linkages to private capital firms in the state with a
59 strong interest in investing in the microbiome science field;

60 (7) Identifying companies focused on microbiome science that are in
61 early stage development and develop tools and financial incentives,
62 including, but not limited to, sponsoring an annual competition for
63 start-up microbiome companies and early stage research projects to
64 recruit such companies to locate in or pursue such projects in the state;

65 (8) Creating a marketing and outreach plan to inform the
66 microbiome sector of the advantages of locating in, relocating to or
67 establishing new lines of business in the state; and

68 (9) Reviewing relevant state laws and regulations and make
69 recommendations for legislative and programmatic changes to reduce
70 or eliminate obsolete, unnecessary or overly burdensome regulatory
71 hurdles to research, development and commercial activities in the
72 microbiome sector.

73 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, the working group shall submit a
74 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, of its
75 plan for the initiatives developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this
76 section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
77 having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding,
78 commerce and public health. The report shall include (1)
79 recommendations for legislative and programmatic changes to
80 accomplish such plan, (2) for each initiative developed pursuant to
81 subsection (c) of this section, a proposed budget, listing options for
82 full, medium and low funding levels, and (3) for each initiative

83 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, recommended
84 measureable and achievable goals and a proposed timetable for
85 reaching such goals.

86 (e) Not later than February 1, 2018, the working group shall make a
87 presentation to the General Assembly and the Governor of its report
88 under subsection (d) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, subsections (a), (c) and (d) were rewritten for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*